

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BG, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH JOURNALIST PETER CUSTERS

REF: DACCA 3400

1. DESK HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM CAPITOL HILL AND JACK ANDERSON STAFFER LARRY KRAFTOWITZ REGARDING DUTCH JOURNALIST PETER CUSTERS. KRAFTOWITZ PHONED AUGUST 11 SEEKING BACKGROUND ON CUSTERS' CASE AND REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES, CUSTERS IS TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN CAMERA IN LATE AUGUST. ACCORDING TO KRAFTOWITZ, AN INFORMAL FREE PETER CUSTERS COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDES THE DUTCHMAN'S FORMER CLASSMATES AT JOHNS HOPKINS, BROUGHT MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION. BASIC BACKGROUND WHICH KRAFTOWITZ PRESENTED WAS IN ACCORD WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CASE, EXCEPT FOR DESCRIPTION OF DACCA CENTRAL JAIL IN RATHER LURID TERMS AND CLAIM THAT CUSTERS HAD BEEN TORTURED. JOURNALIST EXPECTS THAT ANDERSON WILL INCLUDE ITEM ON HIS NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW NEXT WEEK. AT OUR SUGGESTION, HE AGREED TO DELETE REFERENCE TO TORTURE AND TO TONE DOWN HORRORS OF CENTRAL JAIL.

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2. IF ANDERSON DOES REPORT ON THIS MATTER, WE WOULD

ANTICIPATE RECEIVING FURTHER INQUIRIES. THEREFORE, WE WOULD

APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON THE
CASE. ANY INQUIRIES WHICH YOU MAKE SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE
VERY LOW KEY AND PREFERABLY CONFINED TO DUTCH EMBASSY OR
OTHER INDIRECT CHANNELS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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